



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING SYSTEMS COMMAND
1322 PATTERSON AVENUE, SE, SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, DC 20374-5065

5720
Ser BD52/073
December 15, 2022

Mr. Jordan Wolman
Politico
3355 16th Street NW, Apt. 807
Washington, DC 20010

Subj: YOUR FOIA REQUEST (DON-NAVY-2023-000548)

Dear Mr. Wolman,

This letter is in response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), assigned tracking number DON-NAVY-2023-000548, dated October 17, 2022, for your request of the following information:

“...the number of letters the Department of the Navy has sent to farmers and business entities involved in producing food including all U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia, alerting them of potential nearby contamination of water, soil, animals or crops due to PFAS chemicals -- all addresses to which these letters were addressed. If the exact addresses are unavailable or unable to be shared, the zip code of those farmers. -- one sample letter that was sent to farmers in connection to each Navy installation from which contamination occurred. I'm also requesting other FOIA requests related to the letters the department sent to farmers.”

Four documents, are provided with redactions, pursuant to the following FOIA exemptions: Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). Names and addresses to whom this information pertains have a substantial privacy interest in withholding it. Because the harm to personal privacy is greater than whatever public interest may be served by disclosure, release of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of these individuals. Exemption 4, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4) protects trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential.

Your fee is waived in this instance only.

You have the right to an appeal. It must be received within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Please provide a letter requesting an appeal, with a copy of your initial request and a copy of the letter of denial, in an envelope marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.” You are encouraged, though not required, to provide an explanation why you believe the redactions were inappropriate or our search was inadequate. Also, please provide a copy of your appeal letter to us at Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, 1322 Patterson Avenue, SE, Suite 1000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5065.

There are two ways to file an appeal—through FOIAonline or by mail.

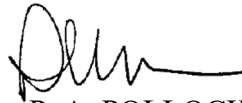
1. Through FOIAonline: Go to <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home/>. Locate your request (enter a keyword or the request tracking number in the “Search” field), click on it, then the "Create Appeal" tab in the left-hand column. Complete the subsequent field, click “Save,” and FOIAonline will submit your appeal.

2. By mail: Address your appeal to:

Department of the Navy
Office of the General Counsel
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 5A532
Washington, DC 20350-1000

If you have any questions, please contact my FOIA coordinator at abby.j.machalec.civ@us.navy.mil, (202) 685-9269. You may also contact the Department of Navy (DON) FOIA Public Liaison, Christopher Julka, at christopher.a.julka.civ@us.navy.mil, (703) 697-0031. In addition, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) provides a voluntary mediation process for resolving disputes between persons making FOIA requests and the DON. For more information, go to <https://www.archives.gov/ogis/about-ogis/contact-information>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. A. Pollock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P. A. POLLOCK
Chief Management Officer

Copy to:
NAVFAC (EV, OGC, PAO)